

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
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O R 171101Z APR 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 3065
INFO FAS/USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0519

COMMERCE/OIM/SAD FROM RUAN ON 14 APRIL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAGR, EG, IZ

SUBJ: TEXAS STATE IOGA MISSION

REF: CAIRO 4577 (NOT SENT TEHRAN)

1. IRAQ OIL MINISTRY INFORMED HOTEL BAGHDAD 13 APRIL THAT ALL ROOMS SUBJECT TO REQUISITION FROM 26 APRIL TILL FURTHER NOTICE FOR MEETING OF REPORTEDLY OPEC OIL MINISTERS. THUS, ALL FUTURE RESERVATIONS SUBJECT TO BLANKET CANCELLATION AND CURRENT OCCUPANTS WOULD BE FORCED TO VACATE. THOMAS COOK AGENCY WAS GIVEN THIS INFORMATION ON APRIL 14 BY HOTEL BAGHDAD OWNER, MR. KILLU. PLANS FOR OPEC MEETING NOT YET GENERAL KNOWLEDGE HERE.

2. KILLU TELLS RUAN THAT REQUISITION MAY BE FOR ONLY 125 OF TOTAL 200 ROOMS (BUT WOULD INCLUDE ALL SUITES). IN SUCH CASE, TEXAS MISSION AND JAMES HARRIS WOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR RESTORATION OF ORIGINAL RESERVATIONS. MEANWHILE, ON ADVICE THOMAS COOK AND KILLU, RUAN AUTHORIZED COOK TO MAKE ALTERNATE RESERVATIONS AT HOTEL DAR-AL-SALAAM, BAGHDAD'S NEWEST AND SECOND BEST AFTER HOTEL BAGHDAD. THESE RESERVATIONS INCLUDE FIVE DOUBLES FOR PERIOD 2-7 MAY AND ONE SINGLE FOR 29 APRIL - 7 MAY. LATTER WOULD BE USED BY HARRIS THROUGH 3 MAY. ON RUAN'S APPROVAL, GIVEN IN VIEW OF CRITICAL HOTEL SITUATION CERTAIN TO DEVELOP WHEN PAR
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ONE INFO BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE, COOK HAS MADE REQUIRED NON-REFUNDABLE FIRST DAY DEPOSIT OF TEN DINARS (APPROX 34 DOLLARS) FOR EACH OF THE SIX ROOMS AT DAR-AL-SALAAM IN BEHALF OF MISSION TO INSURE RESERVATIONS.

3. RUAN HAS ADVISED COOK THAT, IN ORDER THAT FORFEITURE, IF ANY, OF MISSION DEPOSIT BE HELD TO MINIMUM, MISSION WOULD PLAN TO SPEND NIGHT OF 2 MAY IN DAR AL-SALAAM HOTEL EVEN IF HOTEL BAGHDAD BECOMES AVAILABLE FOR FULL PERIOD. MISSION WOULD THEN HAVE OPTION TO REMAIN IN DAR-AL-SALAAM OR MOVE TO HOTEL BAGHDAD. RESERVATION RATES SAME AT BOTH HOTELS: NINE DINARS TOTAL PLUS 10 PERCENT SERVICE CHARGE FOR DOUBLE ROOM WITH TWO OCCUPANTS, EIGHT DINARS PLUS 10 PERCENT FOR SINGLE ROOM WITH DOUBLE BED. RUAN ALSO REQUESTED ADDITIONAL SUITE RESERVATION IN DAR-AL-SALAAM IF AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH SUITE IS MERELY LARGER SIZE DOUBLE ROOM. SUITE AVAILABILITY SHOULD BE KNOWN BEFORE HARRIS ARRIVAL.

4. AS OF 15 APRIL, MISSION STILL NOT FORMALLY APPROVED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY (FONMIN). USINT EXPECTS APPROVAL TO BE GRANTED AT VIRTUAL LAST MINUTE. FORMAL APPROVAL WOULD INSURE FONMIN WOULD MEET MISSION AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE AND EXPEDITE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES, WOULD PROVIDE ONE CAR AND DRIVER DURING MISSION VISIT, AND WOULD EXPEDITE DEPARTURE AS IN CASE OF INCIDENTALLY, HAS BEEN 40 MILLION DOLLARS IRAQI ORDER FOR FROBEN TROCKEN PLACED WITH MISSISSIPPI FIRM.

5. NEAR TERM SALES PROSPECTS MORE PROMISING IN IRAQ FOR TEXAS MISSION THAN IN EGYPT. ALL ORDERS WOULD LIKELY BE OF HIGH DOLLARS VALUE. PER MARCH 1976 POST ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT, GOI EXPECTED TO ALLOCATE 9 - 15 BILLION RPT BILLION DOLLARS TO AGRICULTURE-IRRIGATION SECTOR IN 1976-80 PERIOD. THIS INCLUDES NEED FOR 32,000 TRACTORS AND 7,000 HARVESTERS. APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR MISSION WITH DR. HUSSAIN AL-ANI, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF COMMITTING THIS BUDGET. TRENDS REPORT ALSO NOTES (1) AGRICULTURE SECTOR THUS FAR SURPRISINGLY NEGLECTED BY US FIRMS AND (2) LIMITED US PARTICIPATION TO DATE IN MAJOR AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING TO IRAQIS. TIMING OF MISSION VISIT APPEARS EXCELLENT IN TERMS OF IRAQI INTERESTS NOW BEING RENEWED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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US SOURCES OF SUPPLY. OPEC MEETINGS SHOULD NOT AFFECT MISSION ACTIVITIES.

6. USINT MISSION BRIEFING SET FOR 3 MAY AT 0900. USINT PRINCIPAL OFFICER MARSHALL WILEY'S RESIDENCE WILL BE SITE OF MISSION RECEPTION ON 4 MAY. BUDGET ESTIMATE OF 250 DOLLARS REFLECTS RECENT INCREASE IN SERVANT COSTS.

7. MEA OFFICE HERE QUERYING MEA HOUSTON RE WHEREABOUTS OF MISSION BROCHURES, ABOUT WHICH THEY HAD NO PRIOR INFORMATION. MEA STATION MANAGER HERE WILL MEET MISSION ON ARRIVAL.

8. WILL RESERVE FIVE CARS FOR MISSION USE TO BE REDUCED TO FOUR IF FONMIN GRANTS FORMAL APPROVAL AND PROVIDES CAR. PER DAY RATE WILL APPROXIMATE 40 DOLLARS TO 48 DOLLARS PER CAR DEPENDING ON HOURS USED.

9. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED IN WRAPUP CABLE, WHICH RUAN WILL TRANSMIT FROM EMBASSY TEHRAN TO HASTEN RECEIPT IN WASHINGTON. RUAN DEPARTING FOR TEHRAN 17 APRIL 1825 VIA IR 512. WILEY

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